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AUSTRALIA

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## TERRITORIAL WATER LIMITS, FEDERAL-STATE CONTROLS REVISED

### New Baseline Calculation

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 5 Feb 83 p 5

[Text]

**CANBERRA.**— Australia's boundary will be set wider from Monday week.

Australia's legal expansion from February 14 will result from the use of new baselines from which Australia's three-mile territorial sea zone will be calculated.

The Attorney-General, Senator Durack, announced the change yesterday, without saying how much bigger this would make Australia and its territorial seas.

The new baselines will be calculated not from the low-water mark around the coastline but from a line marking the positions of Australia's lowest astronomical tides.

That means the three-mile zone will start from the point on the coastline where the lowest tides possible can be predicted to occur under average meteorological conditions.

Torres Strait will be exempt from the new system. The Torres Strait Treaty between Australia and Papua New Guinea will continue to govern boundaries in that area.

Senator Durack said this exception was a significant step towards implementing the Torres Strait Treaty as soon as possible.

AUSTRALIA

DEFENSE ACT CHANGES TO STREAMLINE ANTITERRORIST EFFORT

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 3 Feb 83 p 3

[Text]

LEGISLATIVE changes are being planned by the Federal Government in an effort to streamline anti-terrorist measures.

The Minister for Administrative Services, Mr Newman, said yesterday changes would be made to the 1903 Defence Act to make it easier for armed forces to be used to counter terrorist activities.

He said that under Section 51 of the Act, a complex procedure had to be followed by a State government seeking assistance from the military.

This included obtaining the permission of local magistrates and other hangovers from colonial days.

"The procedure does work as it now stands and we have proved that recently in the case of the Brisbane TAA ex-

tortion," Mr Newman said.

"But the changes will make the business simpler while still keeping the many safeguards that have been built into the legislation."

The amending legislation is expected to come before Parliament in March and will set out precise procedures for terrorist situations.

Where a State police force believes it needs the help of the military it will be up to the State Government to put a request through the Governor to the Governor-General.

This request will be passed to the Federal Government and will be dealt with by the Prime Minister and ministers for Administrative Services and Defence.

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